

Dodge County Land Conservation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
127 East Oak Street  
Juneau, WI 53039  
September 26, 2016

The Dodge County Land Conservation Committee (LCC) met on September 26, 2016 beginning at 8:30 AM in Room 3A of the Dodge County Administration Building.

Call to Order: This meeting was called to order by Chair Larry Bischoff at 8:30 AM with the following members present: Larry Bischoff, William Foley, Allen Behl, Lisa Derr, Dale Macheel, Dick Fink and William Muche.

Other Dodge County Board Members, Dodge County Staff and Agency Advisors Present: John Bohonek, Conservation Engineering Technician, Kathy Turner, District Conservationist.

Excused: Marc Bethke, County Conservationist

Others Present: Jim Mielke, and John Bohonek, Conservation Engineer. John Duckert, Conservation Technician (works primarily with farmland preservation.)

Approval of agenda and permit the Chair to deviate from agenda to efficiently conduct meeting: Lisa Derr moved seconded by Dick Fink to approve the agenda and to permit the Chair to deviate from the agenda to efficiently conduct the meeting. Motion carried.

Approval of August minutes: Motion by Allen Behl seconded by Bill Muche to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Public appearances/comment: None

Agency Advisor Monthly Reports: Kathy Turner said that Dodge County had one of the highest signups for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This has 50% cost share with the federal government. There is a general sign up. You have to do some kind of commodity cropping 7 out of 10 years. You have to have some kind of conservation practice and maintain it. In the program, there is a rental payment for a 10 to 15-year time based upon soil conditions.

You can also have "Continuous CRP" which are very specific such as buffering ditches and streams, and scrapes (shallow, small, seasonal ponds.) "Continuous" means year-round. There is also the CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) to which the state contributes funds in addition to the 50% cost share. This has become more competitive as the acres are "capping off." For more information, go to CREP.org. to see

how many acres are available.

We are getting into the NRCS planning to see what kind of practices can be implemented (grass waterways seeded, etc.) There have been some delays with the excessive rain.

The Northwestern part of Dodge County has SAFE, which is geared to protecting song birds, and threatened endangered bird species. This is driven by acres so there is an opportunity for landowners here as well. This provides more grass cover for these birds. Compliance is reviewed through SNAP PLUS.

The Conservation Stewardship Program has significant changes coming which will be reviewed next month.

Review of bills and revenue: John Bohonek reviewed bills and revenue as shown on the attached listing.

Consideration of New and Revised Conservation Plans:  
Farmland Preservation Updates and Discuss FPP Tracking Software Programs

FFP Crop Report and Notice of Noncompliance. Instead of second notices noncomplying owners will be contacted personally.

Conservation Plans. John Bohonek noted that SNAP PLUS has taken over the process of conservation plan writing. For this year, they will manually weed out those who are not compliant. They will then go through certificates to get them out by the middle of December. However, he will be recommending that the committee not be signing as they are produced electronically.

John Bohonek gave the committee four options.

1. COC numbers can be tracked with spreadsheets.
2. Free program from DATCP (Dept of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection)
3. RESPECT program is written by college students with limited conservation knowledge
4. TRANSCENDENT was created by a private company which was written by someone with knowledge of farmland preservation program. Green Lake, Fond du Lac, Columbia are using this program since 2010. St. Croix County is using TRANSCENDENT along with GCS (used by land records for parcel identification in Dodge County.)

John Duckert, Conservation Technician (works primarily with farmland preservation) stated that SNAP PLUS already produces a farmland conservation plan. Every four years, conservationists much physically check 25% of the participants. At that point, they would look at the nutrient management plan to see if they are following it.

The county has to additionally track parcel numbers to identify farmers' tax credits. John and Marc previously started looking for software options without tying into parcel numbers because they change every year. But TRANSCENDENT software will pick up the parcel changes. It is also tied to Dept. of Agriculture form changes. \$10,000 was promotional cost plus \$2,500 annually. This price will increase next year.

Lisa Derr moved to obtain a Request for Proposal from TRANSCENDENT by the October meeting. Bill Foley seconded. Motion passed.

Land & Water Resource Management Cost-Share Program Monthly Report (John Bohonek.)

John signed a contract for manure storage abandonment. He finished several other cost share programs and payments. There are some additional funds which he anticipates on future projects.

Report from Nonpoint Runoff Work Group. The group met and Bill Foley identified February 8, 2017, as the workshop focused on soil health. The presenter will be Ray Archuleta from NRCS from North Carolina.

Manure Storage Ordinance Projects Status Report - John Bohonek reviewed several projects with the committee.

County Conservationist Monthly Report: Significant Work and Activities and Issues. Marc had already ordered the trees and the brochure will go out in the mail. John signed conservation plans for the FSA. He requested SWRM Grant reimbursement. (SWRM is a staffing grant to each county by the state toward staff salaries.) John signed 3 CREP agreements.

Committee Member Reports: Dale Macheel presented regarding the Fox Lake Inland Lake District, Kurt Hechle, Tim Meekma (acting chair), Cheryl Witkowski and Julie Flemming. On Sept 8 they met and reviewed significant correspondence regarding weed programs. They discussed sending out information to make it more transparent. They will have a lake district meeting for aquatic plant control and possible levy for that meeting on October 11.

Bill Foley reported on the Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Assoc. (BDLIA), which requested that people respond to weed requests. Only four homeowners expressed interest with a follow up letter sent to all association members.

BD has participated in the WDNR Health Lakes Program since initiation three year ago. There are five different practices available for participation; 1) native planting, 2) rain garden, 3) fish sticks, 4) rock infiltration, and 5) rain water diversion. The Healthy Lakes Team with BDLIA will receive the WDNR secretary award presented by Kurt Thiede, Deputy Secretary, to acknowledge their participation in this positive program.

Water Resources Management Program (WRMP), will begin analysis of Beaver Creek and how it affects Beaver Dam Lake. BDLIA will fund and participate in this project which will study nutrient loads and how habitat could be improved in this section of the watershed. John Bohonek will be the point of contact for Dodge County along with Curt Calkins in Columbia Co. Beaver Creek has been found to discharge 10 times more phosphorous than is considered healthy for a creek. The goal is to remove Beaver Creek from the EPA 303(d) impaired water quality list. The objective will be to establish a plan with UW Madison WRMP, by the fall of 2017. This analysis will identify operational elements and impact priorities for implementation of best practices.

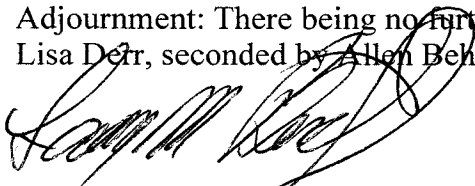
Bill Muche reported on the Lake Sinnissippi District saying that there will be fish stocking. They had issues with the contractor who didn't completely install their Geotube. Financially, they dropped a larger project to focus on smaller projects. The district also sent out a survey. It appears that 60% are in favor of Lake District tax increases.

Correspondence: Northeastern voluntary well-tests results were given to the committee. DNR provided answers to questions on Permit Changes and Response to Comments for Lakeview Dairy. The committee also received notice of hearing relating to the creation of a new town highway, alteration of an existing town highway and elimination of grade crossing.


Per Diems: Allen Behl moved and Lisa Derr seconded that all regular per diems be paid. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 24, 2016 beginning at 8:30 AM in Room 3A of the Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, Wisconsin.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before this committee, motion by Lisa Derr, seconded by Allen Behl to adjourn at 10:30AM. Motion carried.



Larry Bischoff, Chair



Lisa Derr, Secretary